



9 January 2007

### Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Safety Message

1. On 15 January 2007, our Nation will celebrate the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., our Nation's most influential civil rights leader. Dr. King dedicated his life to obtaining equality for all Americans. During this holiday we join with our fellow Americans in celebrating his sacrifice, achievements, and vision. In recognition of Dr. King, USFK will execute a four-day holiday, 13 - 16 January.
2. While we celebrate the life of this great American, I am concerned that the four-day holiday honoring him could result in the death of a U.S. Servicemember. This would be a tragedy. My #1 concern is the safety and welfare of our USFK Team. I want everyone to enjoy the holiday. In pursuit of this, it is imperative for commanders and leaders to remember that we are responsible and accountable for the safety and welfare of our personnel.
3. Holiday activities combined with dangerously cold and freezing temperatures increase risk during this time of the year. Excessive consumption of alcohol, domestic violence, home and apartment fires, carbon monoxide poisoning, and changing weather all combine to make this time particularly hazardous. To ensure our personnel return to their duties safely, commanders and leaders must ensure that their first-line leaders obtain a verbal behavior contract with their subordinates by conducting Under the Oak Tree Counseling as outlined in ["USFK Command Policy Letter#2, Command Safety"](#).
4. Our goal is No Loss of Life. We can achieve this goal with the intervention of the chain of command and the leadership of first line supervisors. Through the proactive application of the composite risk management process we can eliminate risks that could take a life needlessly. As we celebrate the life of Dr. King, let's all ensure that we stay safe, take care of each other, and come back to duty ready to fight tonight.

B. B. BELL  
General, US Army  
Commander

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**FREEDOM'S FRONTIER!**